



## GWI UPDATE – 12 July 2017



*Nyamal Biel Tutdeal and Rosette Adera, CIR WG-USA*

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### — Graduate Women International news —

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#### **GWI attends the 10th session of the United Nations Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples**

GWI is raising awareness about the barriers indigenous women and girls face when trying to get an education. To enhance this effort, GWI is attending the 10<sup>th</sup> Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (EMRIP) at the Palais des Nations in Geneva this week. In addition to members of the EMRIP, participants and observers at the conference include representatives of States, Indigenous Peoples from around the world, United Nations bodies, and specialized agencies, NGOs, human rights institutions and academics.

Challenges towards Indigenous People include widespread discrimination and structural violence, with indigenous women and people with disabilities being particularly affected. Additionally, Indigenous People are habitually overlooked and indigenous women and girls are frequently targets of violence, an issue that is getting overdue attention during EMRIP. The opening session vowed to recognize, promote and protect indigenous rights and ensure that there is no chasm between what governments declare their intentions to be and reality.

EMRIP was established by the Human Rights Council (HRC) in 2007 as a subsidiary body of the HRC. EMRIP provides the HRC with thematic advice, in the form of studies and research, on the rights of Indigenous Peoples as directed by the HRC. For its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary, EMRIP's main agenda includes a session on the good practices and lessons learned over the years, which allows for the reflection on the progress made in favour of the rights of Indigenous Peoples.

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## — GWI member news —

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### **Women Graduates-USA interviews Nyamal Biel Tutdeal on her education journey**

GWI is honoured to share Women Graduates-USA's inspirational interview with Nyamal Biel Tutdeal, who describes her educational journey to Arcadia University, where she is a graduate student in the International Peace and Conflict Resolution masters program. Nyamal and her family are former refugees from the south of Sudan, now South Sudan, who sought refuge in Ethiopia due to war. They were separated when war broke out in Ethiopia and through perseverance resettled in South Dakota in the USA.

Nyamal overcame numerous obstacles to pursue her education, such as language barriers, lack of guidance from parents who were not familiar with the education system in the USA, single parent household where schoolwork was balanced against other responsibilities, and overcoming the ongoing trauma of conflict. Nyamal, in addition to her studies, is the recent founder of the [NyaEden Foundation](#), an NGO seeking to empower girls and women of war and to provide basic survival necessities to restore women and children dignity and independence.

She aims to work with displaced people, refugees and internally displaced people in the Sudanese community and Africa as a whole. GWI shares Nyamal's inspirational story and we commend her dedication to pursuing her education. She is a role model, an advocate for change and for peace. You can read the full interview on our website [here](#).

### **The Hong Kong Association of University Women celebrates 60th Anniversary**



This year, the Hong Kong Association of University Women (HKAUW) celebrates its 60th anniversary. HKAUW was established in 1957 and joined Graduate Women International a year later, in 1958. Since its establishment, the association has drawn and welcomed both local and expatriate graduates; already, in 1961, HKAUW had members of 14 nationalities with degrees from 40 universities.

HKAUW has always been involved in tackling a variety of issues affecting women such as Chinese Marriage Laws, in its early years, and, more recently, equal pay and maternity leave. Furthermore, the association runs long standing and successful international and local scholarship programs.

## Graduate Women Victoria awards Scholarships and Bursaries to fifteen female students



*The winners of the Graduate Women Victoria Scholarships and Bursaries*

[Graduate Women Victoria](#) (a State affiliate of GWI's Australian Federation) annually awards a suite of about 15 Scholarships and Bursaries to Higher Education students who have suffered disadvantage in pursuit of an education. The 2017 winners, for example, included migrants from Sudan and Iran, an Indigenous student, and more than one single mother. It is a condition of the award, and a mentoring exercise, that the winners attend on Scholarship Presentation Day and tell members and friends something about themselves and what education means to them. A year's honorary student membership goes with the award and at least some proceed to full membership after graduation. GWI congratulates all awardees and celebrates Graduate Women Victoria's contribution to these women.

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## — Advocacy —

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### **GWV follows the 8<sup>th</sup> session of the Open-ended Working Group on Ageing (OEWG8)**

The 8th session of the Open-ended Working Group on Ageing (OEWG8) took place from 5 - 7 July, at the United Nations, New York. GWV followed the session's two central themes: equality and non-discrimination; and violence, neglect and abuse of elders. The OEWG8 themed discussions largely focused on the need for explicit legislation and disaggregated data. Worth noting is that legislation clearly prohibiting discrimination based on age is absent in many State's policies; as is legislation explicitly protecting older persons from violence, neglect and abuse. The general lack of disaggregated data with regards to these issues is of concern and the session reinforced the request that States gather such data.

The deficit in elder education was examined and session attendees raised the issue that older persons, particularly older women, face discrimination in access to education and training. GWV aligns with HelpAge International who expressed at OEWG8 that lifelong learning is vital to the empowerment of older women, and can play a large role in preventing their mistreatment. GWV is a strong advocate for lifelong education and training for all and urges States to take measures to ensure that elder women have equal access to these tools. The session closed with the announcement of next year's themes, which will be independence and autonomy, and long-term and palliative care.

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## — Call for applications —

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### **Fondation Rainbow Bridge MBA Scholarships for African and Asian Women**

The Fondation Rainbow Bridge Scholarship is available for women from Asian or African countries affected by natural disasters, drought or famine to pursue an MBA (Masters in Business Administration) programme at HEC Paris. Women applying must demonstrate a commitment to solving some of the social and economic issues affecting their countries while working for the long-term security of the people living there. Application deadlines are 26 November 2017 for the January 2018 intake. For more information on how to apply please click [here](#).

### **Girl Hero Project Writing Competition**

The Girl Hero Project Writing Competition is a project started by children's author Susannah McFarlane with the aim to build the self-esteem and nurture the creativity of young girls, giving girls a safe and positive online space to write, share and inspire each other. The writing competition is open to 8-10 year olds or 11-13 year olds with the theme of writing about the girl hero you admire most, with one winner in each age category winning a special writing class with Susannah McFarlane. You can apply and find out more about the project [here](#).

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## — GWI United Nations Representative Reports —

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On 6 July, GWI summer intern, Irina Elisabeta Rusu, recently attended 67<sup>th</sup> session of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) held at the Palais de Nations, Geneva. The meeting highlighted current projects Romania has undertaken in order to overcome challenges such as discrimination or domestic violence. Moreover, the Romanian delegation underlined the role of education and the involvement of the government in elimination all forms of discrimination against women. Another feature of the discussion was the integration of Roma women in the community. Her full recap of the meeting can be read [here](#).

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## — Give the gift of Hegg Hoffet —

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The ***Hegg-Hoffet Fund for Displaced Women Graduates*** was established in 1936 as an emergency fund to help graduate women deprived of the right to work, and in many cases the right to live, in their native countries. This fund assists graduate women who have been displaced due to war, political upheaval, or gender related atrocities such as rape, honour crimes, forced marriage, and FGM. It provides short-term grants to help women adapt and integrate in their new country, such as providing financial support for language lessons, or tuition grants to re-enter a professional field. Displaced women deserve the opportunity to rebuild their lives and use their education and skills in a new country, but it cannot be done without your generous donations and support. [Donate today, 12 July 2017 between 9:00am – 11:59pm and your donation will be 50% matched.](#)

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## — Did you know? —

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That the Hegg-Hoffet fund was, in 1968, named in honour of the long-term convener Mme Blanche Hegg-Hoffet of Switzerland? She was particularly responsible for raising money and distributing assistance during and after the Second World War as well as being the President of the Swiss Federation of University Women. In 1945, the IFUW Refugee Fund was transferred to her committee, the Committee for the Relief of War Victims, and she was a particularly active fundraiser and activist for the fund.

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## — Other information and events —

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| July 10-14           | <a href="#">Expert Mechanism of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, United Nations, Geneva</a>                     |
| July 14-16           | <a href="#">The IAFOR International Conference on Global Studies 2017</a> , Barcelona, Spain                     |
| July 19-21           | <a href="#">Youth Connekt Africa Summit '17</a> , Kigali, Rwanda   |
| August 24-27         | <a href="#">Annual General Meeting of the University Women Europe</a> , Graz, Austria                            |
| Sept 29-Oct. 1       | <a href="#">Lithuanian University Women's Association Conference</a> , Kaunas, Lithuania                         |
| Oct. 14-16           | <a href="#">Women Graduates-USA AGM</a> , Wisconsin, USA   |
| Nov. 14-16           | <a href="#">IV Global Conference on the Sustained Eradication of Child Labour</a> , Buenos Aires, Argentina      |
| March 14-15, 2018    | <a href="#">ZurichEduCaExpo 2018 - 2nd International Education &amp; Career Exhibition</a> , Zurich, Switzerland |
| July 31-Aug. 2, 2018 | <a href="#">4th Gender &amp; STEM Network Conference</a> , Oregon, USA   |

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## Follow us on social media!



Empowering women and girls through lifelong education for leadership, decision-making and peace. GWI, formerly IFUW, is in special consultative status with ECOSOC since 1947 and is an NGO maintaining official relations with UNESCO and ILO.

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